

Proposed Measures in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Measures Specific to the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

1. Prohibit the sale of recreationally caught dolphin and/or wahoo except for allowing for-hire vessels that possess the appropriate state and Federal commercial permits to sell dolphin harvested under the bag limit.
2. Establish a recreational bag limit of 10 dolphin per person per day, not to exceed 60 dolphin per boat per day. For-hire vessels fishing north of 39 degrees N. latitude (Delaware Bay, Delaware) would be exempt from the bag limit.
3. Establish a recreational bag limit of 2 wahoo per person per day.
4. Set a minimum size limit for dolphin of 20" fork length off Florida and Georgia; no minimum size limit north of Georgia (for compatibility with state regulation).
5. Establish a cap for the commercial fishery of 1.5 million pounds or 13% of total landings. Should the catch exceed this level, the Council will review the data and evaluate the need for additional regulations that may be established through the framework.
6. Establish a 3,000 pound commercial trip limit north of 31 degrees N. latitude (between Jekyll Island and Little Cumberland Island, Georgia) for dolphin and a 1,000 pound trip limit south of 31 degrees N. latitude through the SAFMC area of jurisdiction.
7. Establish a commercial trip limit of 500 pounds for wahoo.
8. Prohibit the use of surface and pelagic longline gear for dolphin and wahoo during any Highly Migratory Species Regulated time or area closures in the South Atlantic's area of jurisdiction (the Atlantic coast for this plan).
9. Establish allowable gear for dolphin and wahoo as longline and hook-and-line gear, including manual, electric, or hydraulic rod and reels, bandit gear, handline and spearfishing gear including powerheads.
10. Define Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and EFH Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) for dolphin and wahoo throughout the Atlantic EEZ including The Point, the Ten Fathom Ledge and Big Rock (North Carolina); the Charleston Bump and the Georgetown Hole (South Carolina); The Point off Juniper Inlet, The Hump off Islamorada, the Marathon Hump and the "Wall" off the Florida Keys (Florida).



Acanthocybium Solanderi



Coryphaena hippurus